

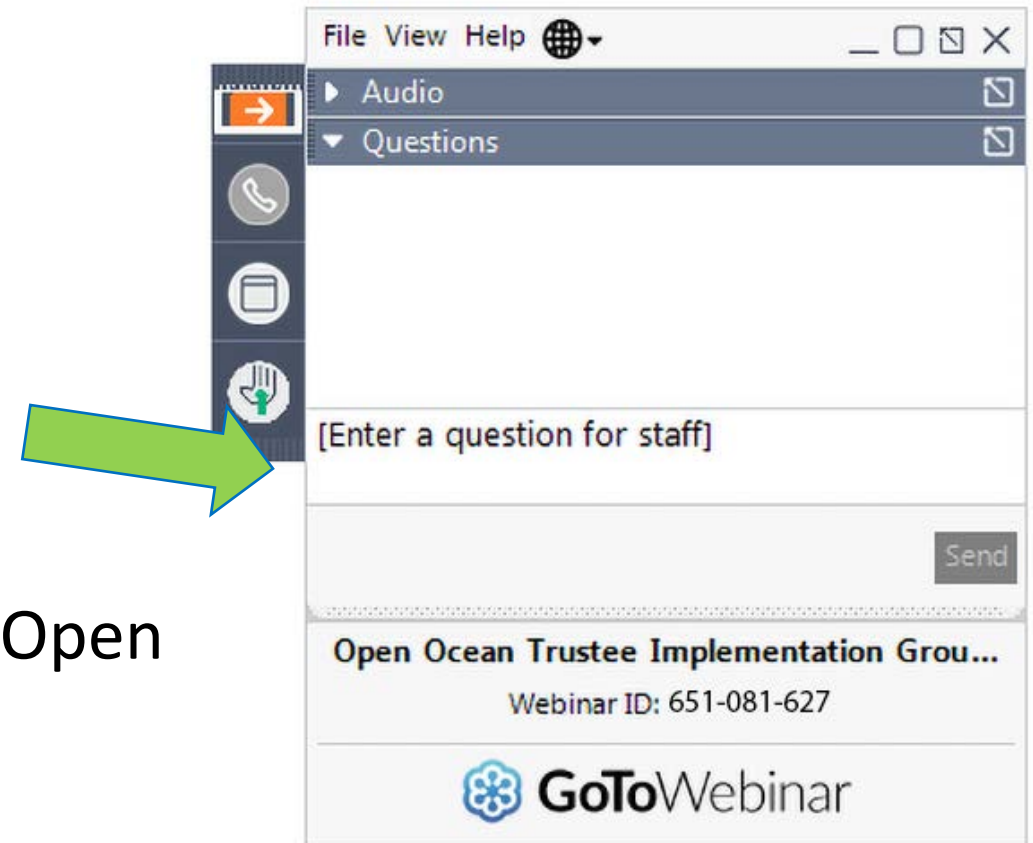


Open Ocean Restoration Area 2023 Annual Meeting

Webinar Participation



- If you're using a phone, turn off your computer's microphone and speakers
- Please use the "Questions" box to type questions for the Q&A session
- Presentation will be posted on www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov
- Please see the chat box for a link to the Open Ocean Restoration Area webpage



Webinar Overview



- *Deepwater Horizon* Background
- Open Ocean Restoration Area
- Restoration Projects
- Restoration Planning
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management
- How to access DWH information
- Question and Answer Session



Deepwater Horizon Incident



Source: U.S. Coast Guard

- The tragic loss of 11 workers and largest marine oil spill in U.S. history
- 3.2 million barrels (134 million gallons) of oil released into the ocean over 87 days
- 43,300 square miles: Cumulative extent of surface slick during the spill—an area almost the size of Virginia

Open Ocean Trustee Representatives



**National Oceanic and
Atmospheric
Administration (NOAA)**

Chris Doley
Laurie Rounds



**U.S. Department of
Agriculture**

Ron Howard
Ben Battle



**U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency (EPA)**

Gale Bonanno
Danny Wiegand



**U.S. Department of the
Interior (DOI)**

Mary Josie Blanchard
Erin Plitsch

Deepwater Horizon Restoration Goals



5 goals

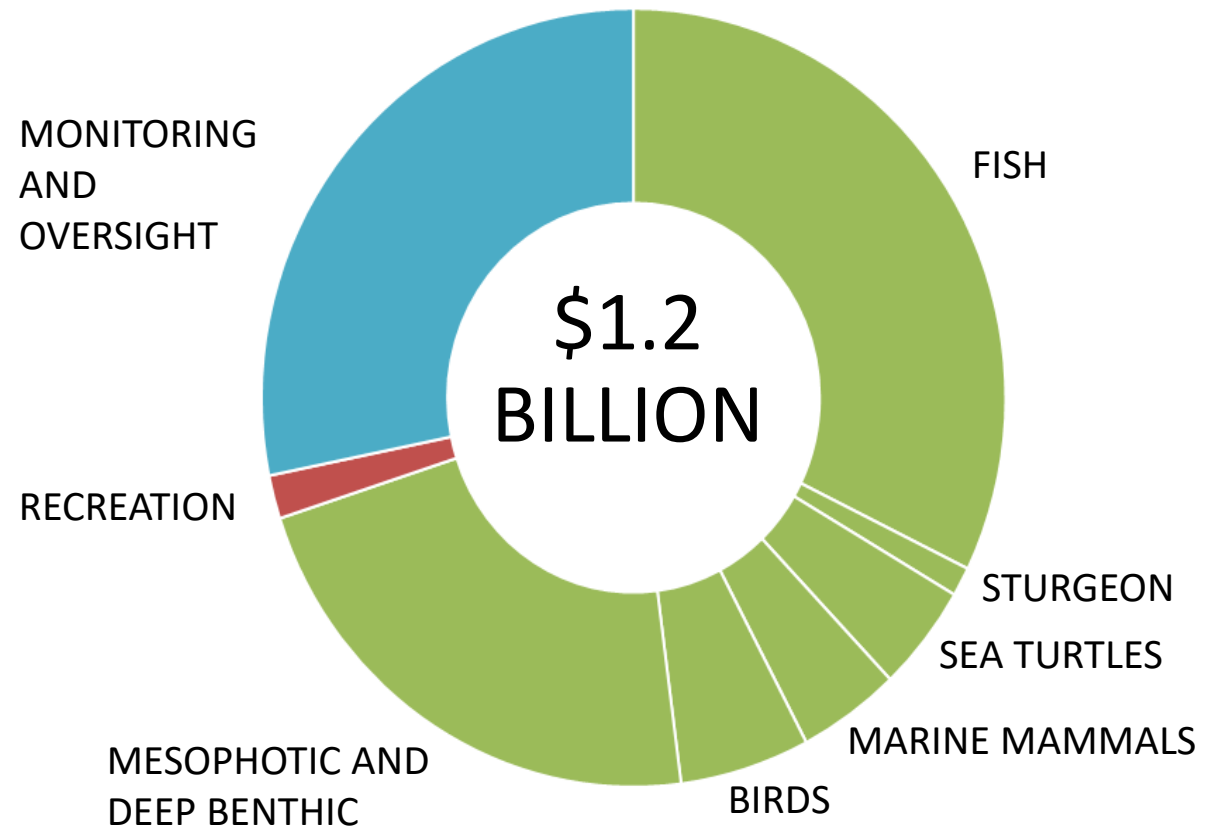
- Restore and Conserve Habitat
- Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
- Restore Water Quality
- Provide and Enhance Recreational Opportunities
- Monitoring and Adaptive Management and Adaptive Management for Unknown Conditions

Open Ocean Restoration Area Allocation



\$8.8
Billion NRDA
Settlement

OO TIG Settlement Allocation



Open Ocean Funding Update



Amount committed for
projects and activities
as of October 2023
\$412 million

Total allocation
\$1.2 billion



\$606 million in settlement funds received from BP to date

42 projects and planning
activities approved



Open Ocean Restoration Projects



42

OPEN OCEAN RESTORATION PROJECTS

- 6 Fish and Water Column Invertebrates
- 1 Sturgeon
- 6 Sea Turtles
- 4 Marine Mammals
- 9 Birds
- 4 Mesophotic and Deep Benthic Communities
- 4 Provide & Enhance Recreational Opportunities
- 8 Monitoring and Adaptive Management



Open Ocean Restoration Highlights



42 nesting platforms deployed with community liaisons to restore Common Loons

6,800 acres of wetland and grassland habitat conserved for black terns



Open Ocean Restoration Highlights

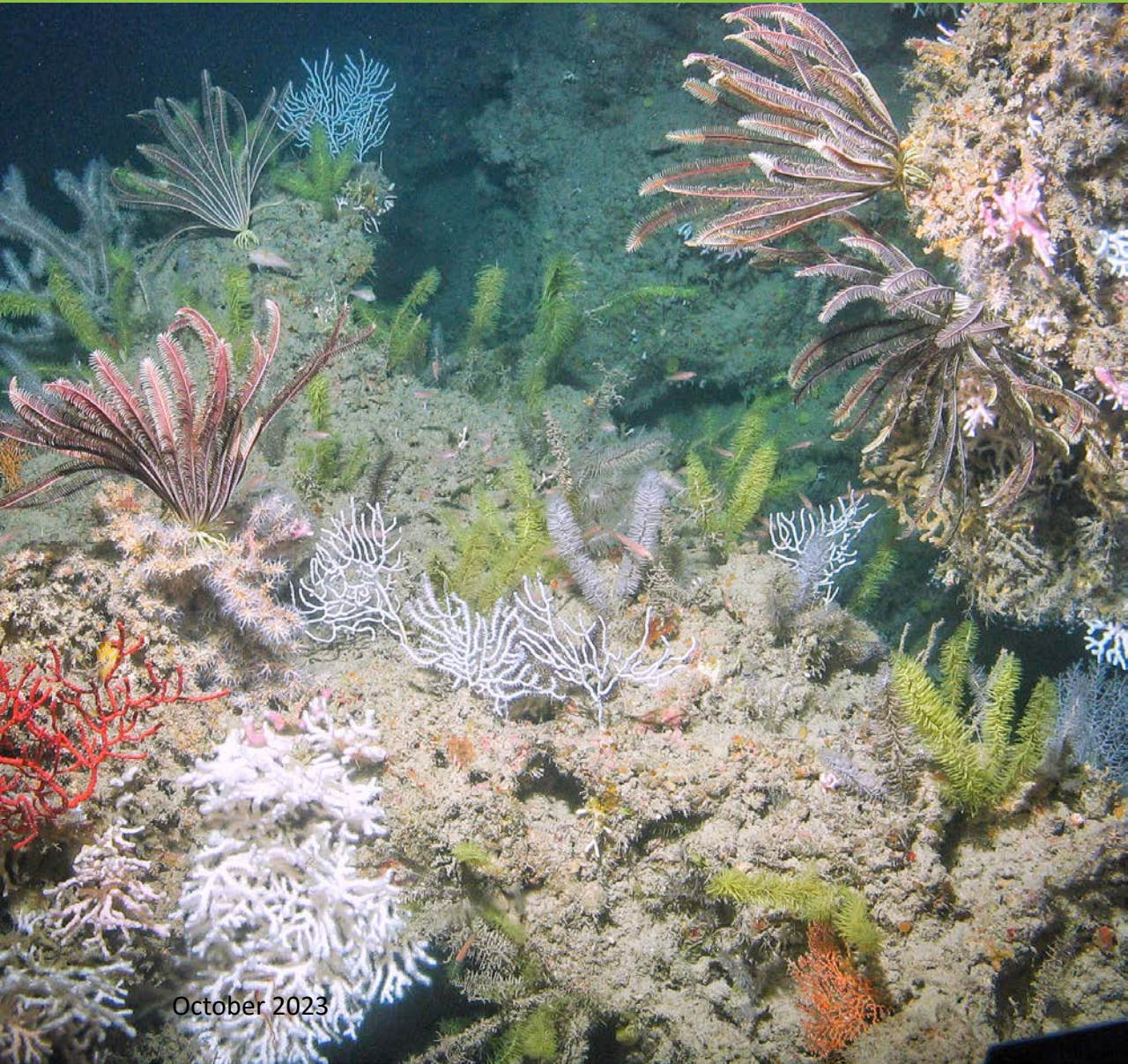


2600+

feet of critical sea
turtle nesting
habitat protected



Open Ocean Restoration Highlights



October 2023

865+
people engaged in
deep-sea restoration
events



Restoration Plan 3: Birds



Restoration Plan 3: Bird Restoration



- Final plan released September 15, 2023
- Focused on seabird restoration
- Projects located in Canada, Northeast US, and Caribbean

7 projects totaling nearly
\$33 million



Restoration Plan 3: Bird Restoration



7 Projects

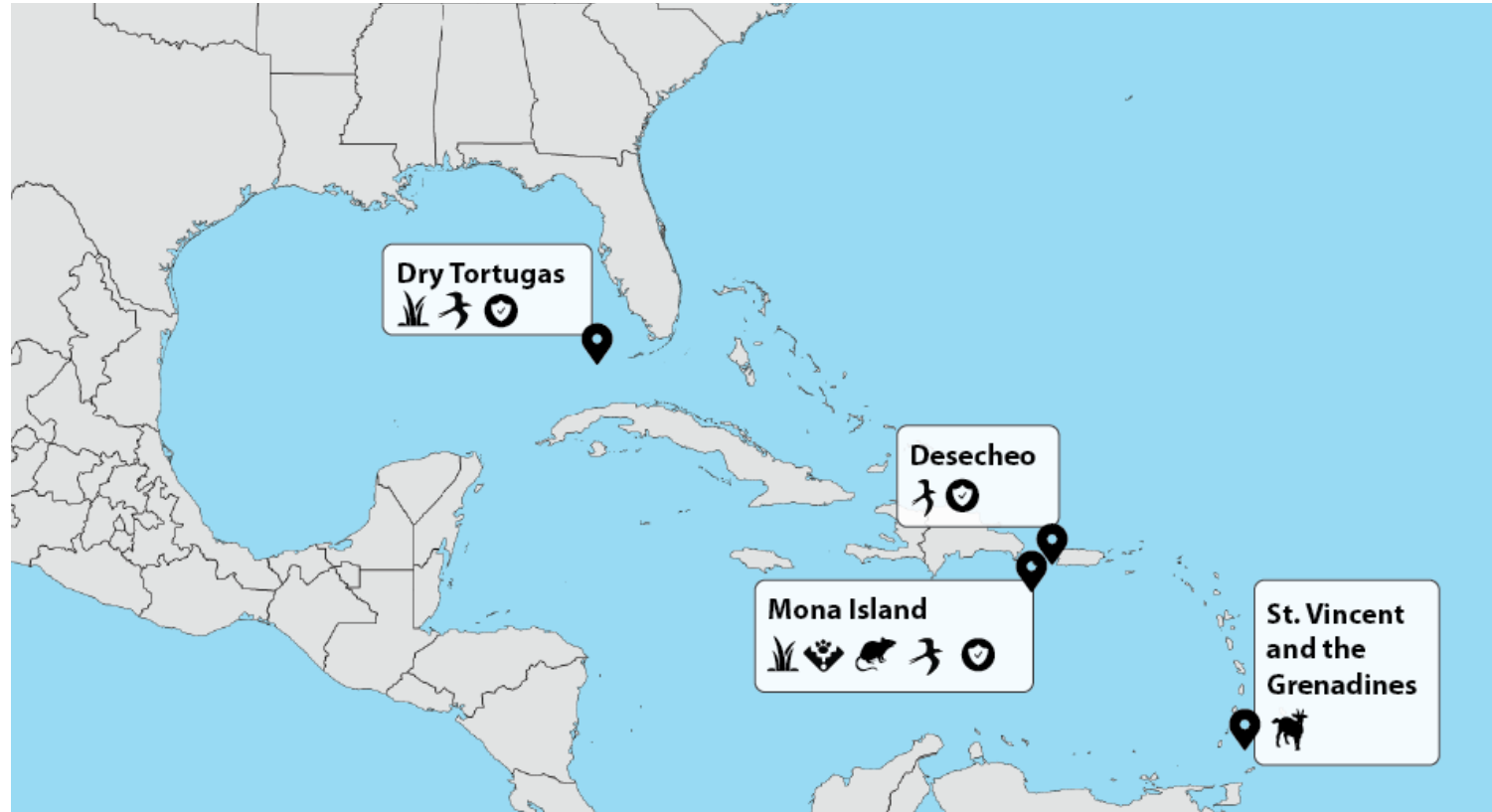
- Common Tern Nesting Colony Restoration in **Manitoba**
- Invasive Goat Removal to Restore Seabird Nesting Habitat in **St. Vincent and the Grenadines**
- Northern Gannet Nesting Colony Restoration in **Eastern Canada**
- Predator Removal and Seabird Nesting Colony Restoration at **Mona Island**
- Seabird Nesting Colony Protection and Enhancement at **Dry Tortugas**
- Seabird Bycatch Reduction in **Northeast U.S. and Atlantic Canada Fisheries**
- Seabird Nesting Colony Reestablishment and Protection at **Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge**







Restoration Plan 3: Bird Restoration





RP3 PROJECT ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN



 Vegetation Management
 Predator Management

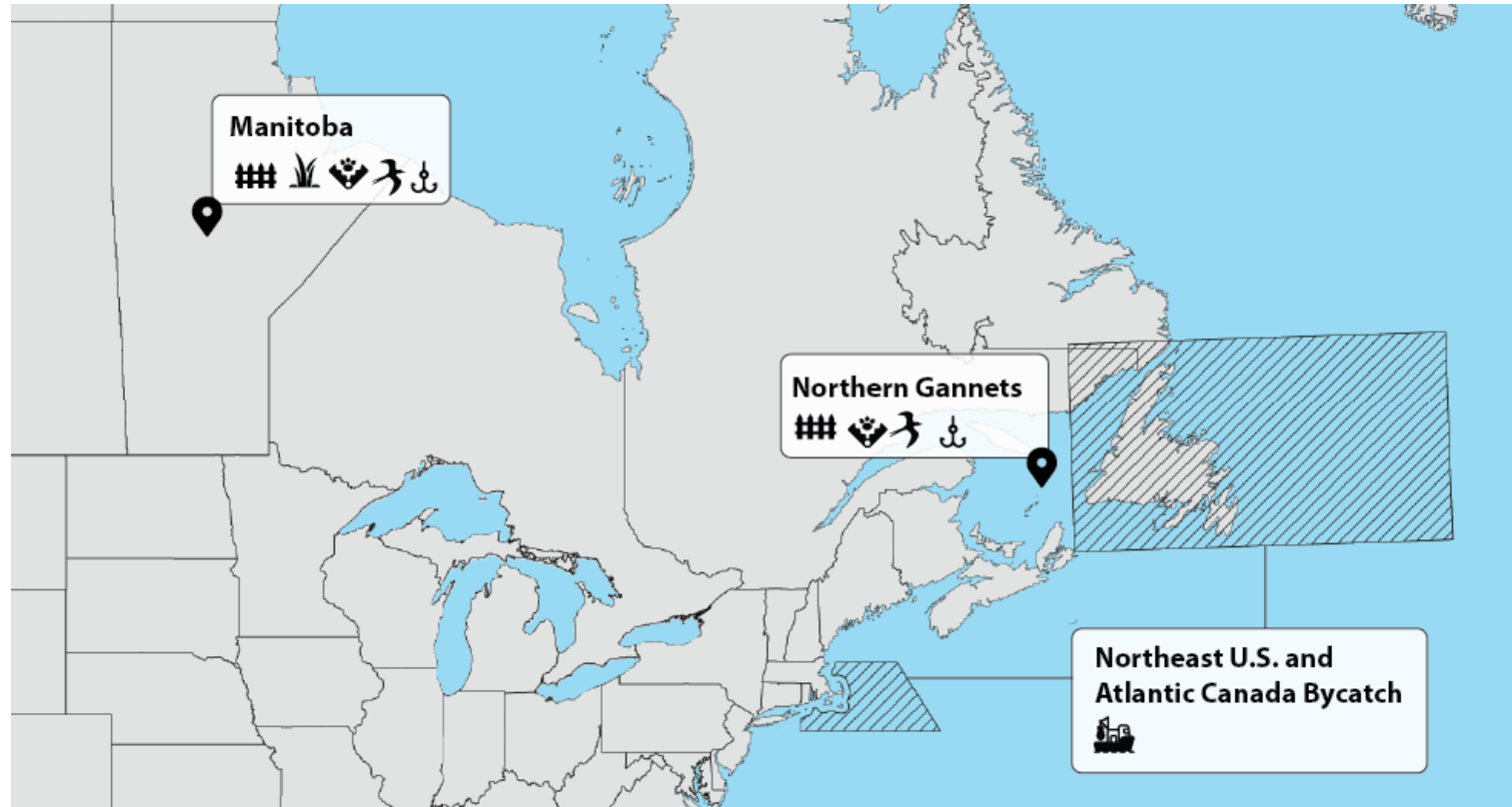
 Rodent Removal
 Social Attraction

 Biosecurity
 Invasive Goat Removal

Restoration Plan 3: Bird Restoration

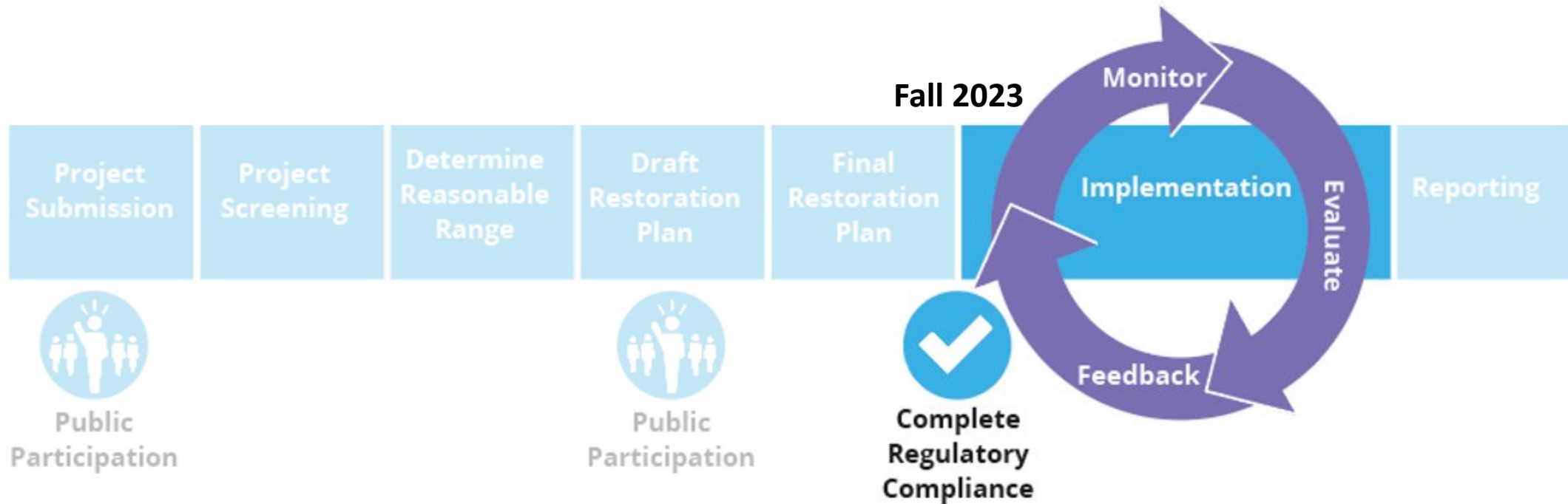


RP3 PROJECT ACTIVITIES ACROSS NORTH AMERICA



- ### Human Disturbance Management
- 🌿 Vegetation Management
- 🐾 Predator Management
- 👤 Social Attraction
- 🚢 Bycatch Reduction
- 🗑️ Land Based Removal of Marine Debris

Restoration Plan 3: Bird Restoration





Restoration Plan 4

Public Participation in Restoration Planning



- Restoration Types: Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles
- Accepted Ideas from June 1 to Aug. 14, 2023

GULF SPILL RESTORATION

Website maintained by NOAA on behalf of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment Trustees



Home About Us How We Restore Restoration Areas Data Media & News Google Custom Search

Submit Your Ideas for Open Ocean Restoration Area Planning

Posted on June 1, 2023 | Open Ocean Restoration Area | Open-Ocean Restoration Area share | f t e

[Đọc tường thuật bằng tiếng Việt.](#) (Read this story in Vietnamese.)

The Open Ocean Trustee Implementation Group wants your ideas for helping to restore fish, water column invertebrates, and sea turtles harmed by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

Submit new restoration ideas, or revisions of previously submitted ideas, through the [Trustee Council's project idea submission portal](#), by **August 14, 2023**.



A school of tuna underwater (Credit: NOAA)

For restoration projects, the [Open Ocean Trustees](#) target species that can be wide-ranging and migratory, meaning that some projects may take place outside of the Gulf of Mexico. The Trustees are currently implementing more than 20 projects approved through previous restoration plans.

For this upcoming Restoration Plan, the Trustees are seeking a range of project ideas to meet one or more of the goals for restoring Fish and Water Column Invertebrates and Sea Turtles. Project ideas may build on the progress made by existing restoration projects, or implement approaches and techniques distinct from those already underway. We will also consider phased project ideas.

Please refer to the *Deepwater Horizon* Trustees' [2016 Programmatic Restoration Plan](#) to learn more about the Trustees' restoration goals, approaches, and techniques.

Fish & Water Column Invertebrates



High priority objectives include:

- Reducing bycatch
- Reducing illegal, unregulated, and unreported fishing
- Improving health of priority fish species by developing tools and techniques
- Reducing threats from marine debris
- Reducing post-release mortality in recreational fisheries

Sea Turtles



Restoration Priorities:

- Reduced injury and mortality through improved response to threats and emergency events
- Reduced risk from vessel strikes
- Improved awareness and use of bycatch reduction devices
- Conservation of sea turtle nesting habitat

Summary of Project Ideas Received

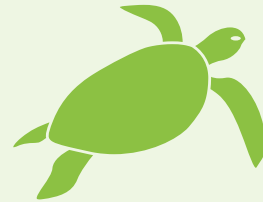


83 PROJECT IDEAS



25

**Fish &
Invertebrates**



6

Both Resources



52

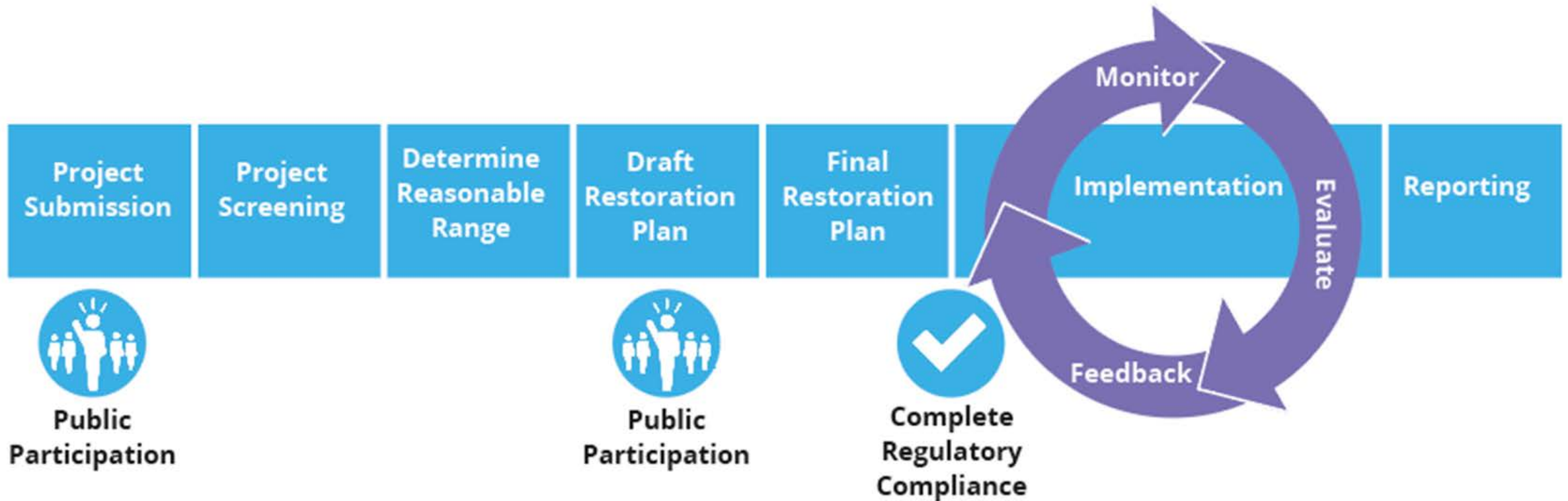
Sea Turtles



Restoration Plan 4 Timeline



August 2023 → Summer- Fall 2023 → Fall 2024 → Winter- Spring 2025





Monitoring and Adaptive Management



Gulf-Wide Status of Nesting Sea Turtles and Beaches Data Inventory



PURPOSE: Identify sea turtle knowledge gaps

BUDGET: \$250,000

- Products
 - Inventory and evaluation of existing information
 - Prioritized list of existing data for acquisition
 - Recommendations for future data needs
- 71 papers inventoried, primarily Kemps ridley and loggerhead so far (1955-2023)



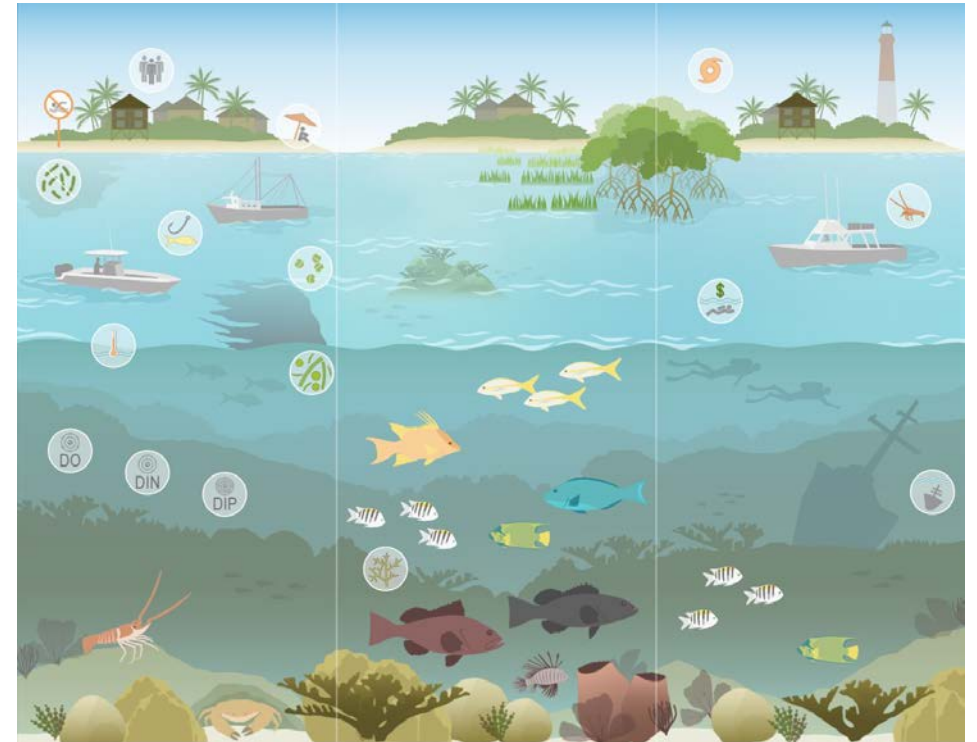
Conceptual Model to Inform Open Ocean Ecosystem Indicators



PURPOSE: Organize what is known about how restoration affects living marine and coastal resources and their habitats

BUDGET: \$347,349

- Evaluated six conceptual model (CM) frameworks
- Selected driver-pressure-stressor-condition-response framework
- Developed high-level cross-resource CM
- Developing draft fish & water column invertebrate, sea turtle, marine mammal, bird, and mesophotic deep benthic community sub-models



Example conceptual model
Credit: Amanda Dillon

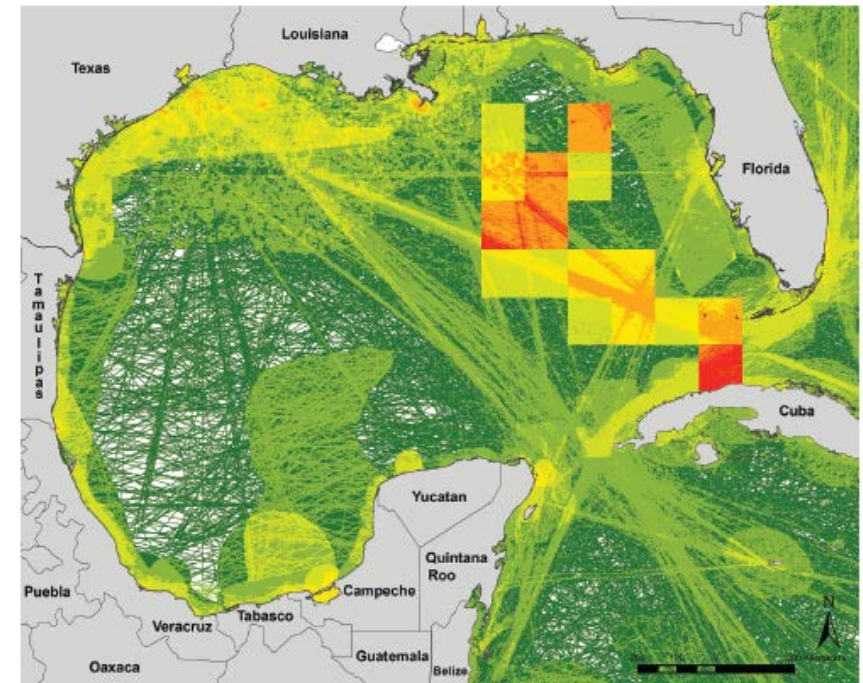
Analysis of Open Ocean Threats, Habitat Use, and Animal Movement



PURPOSE: Identify locations for stressor reduction projects and evaluate their success

BUDGET: \$901,802

- Products
 - Overlay maps of threats and resources
- Progress (as of mid-October)
 - Focal species identified
 - Geographic range defined
 - Relevant data sets identified



Threat Analysis - Gulf Fish

Threat Ranking Low High



From Brenner et al. 2016

Evaluation Framework for Sea Turtle and Marine Mammal Restoration



PURPOSE: Evaluate the TIG's sea turtle and marine mammal restoration work

BUDGET: \$2,091,562

- Products
 - Evaluation framework for OO TIG marine mammal and sea turtle restoration activities
 - Initial evaluation of these activities
- 3-year project starting January 2024



Vessel Surveys for Abundance and Distribution of Marine Mammals and Sea Birds



PURPOSE: Determine the current distribution and abundance of marine mammals and sea birds

BUDGET: \$2,368,770

- Products
 - Updated spatial density models
 - Updated abundance estimates
- First year's survey completed
 - ~400 sightings of 20 species of marine mammals
 - ~3800 sightings of 22 species of seabirds
- Published web story and 6 blog posts



Rice's Whale
NOAA Fisheries/ Mary Applegate (Permit #21938)



Black-capped Petrel

How to Access Open Ocean Project Information



Projects Near You

Explore our **interactive map** to see details on restoration projects.

[VIEW PROJECT DETAILS](#)

Gulf Spill Early Restoration Projects
Early restoration projects in the Gulf States approved by the Deepwater Horizon NRD Trustees

FL AL MS LA TX

133 Sand Restoration
134 Bay Tree Sand Bank
135 Coastal Nourishment
136 Mangrove 60 Bank
137 Prudhoe Bay Bank
138 Park Beach Bank

186 Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota
187 Restoration of Black Terns in North and South Dakota
188 Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat Characterization
189 Juvenile Gulf Sturgeon Gulf-Wide Population Dynamics and Habitat Use
190 Evaluating the Cumulative Effects of Multiple Stressors on Oceanic Cetaceans

Gulf Spill Restoration Projects
Restoration projects in the Gulf States approved by the Deepwater Horizon NRD Trustees

All Projects FL LA AL MS TX Regionwide Open Ocean

15 Remove asphalt scattered on beaches by storms - Florida
32 Passenger ferry in Gulf Islands National Seashore
55 Bike and Pedestrian Enhancements
56 Trail Enhancement
58 Reducing bycatch to restore open-ocean fish
182 Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat Characterization
186 Restoration of Common Loons in Minnesota
187 Restoration of Black Terns in North and South Dakota
188 Gulf Sturgeon Spawning Habitat Characterization
189 Juvenile Gulf Sturgeon Gulf-Wide Population Dynamics and Habitat Use
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www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov

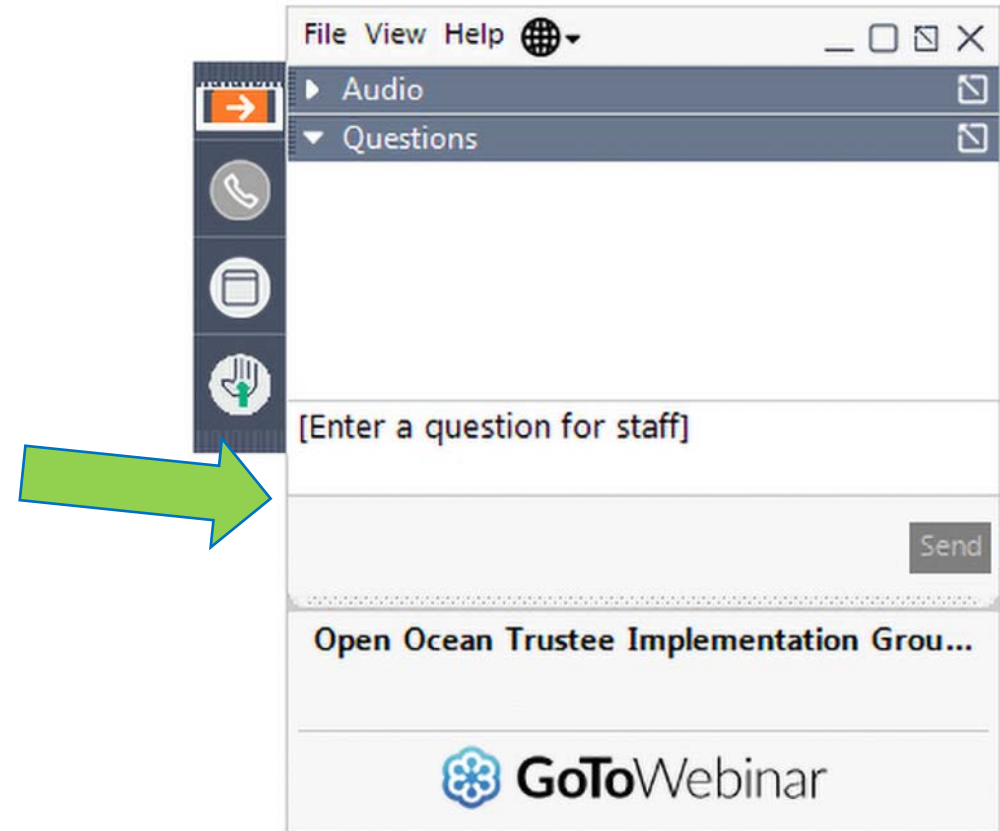


Questions?

Questions



- Please type your questions in the “Questions” box.
- We’ll do our best to get to as many questions as possible.
- More information is online at the Open Ocean webpage link in chat.





openocean.TIG@noaa.gov

